

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 DHA-02 ORM-02 IGA-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /038 W

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R 121110Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2490

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN EAID GV

SUBJECT: PROPOSED HANDICAPPED REHABILITATION PROJECT - GUINEA

REF: CONAKRY 0751

1. SUMMARY: GOG HAS REVIVED REQUEST FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA'S REHABILITATION CENTER FOR DEAF CHILDREN. EMBASSY INTENDS TRY TO MEET REQUEST IN PART AS SELF-HELP PROJECT. HOWEVER, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES IS REQUESTED TO PROPERLY SHAPE THIS VERY MODEST BUT DESIRABLE AID. END SUMMARY.

2. GOG SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO UN JEANNE MARTIN CISSE HAS RENEWED GOG'S BID FOR U.S. AID TO HELP REFURBISH, EQUIP AND TRAIN DEAF-CHILD REHABILITATION CENTER. BEGUN BY SS "HOPE" AMERICAN DOCTORS IN 1963-64, CENTER CURRENTLY COMPRISES 3 ILL-TRAINED INSTRUCTORS AND 35 CHILDREN IN DILAPIDATED "ATELIER". DURING IVP VISIT TO U.S. BY SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR KADIATOU BA CURTISS IN 1975, DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. MCCAVITT (HEW) HARVEY AMES AND JEAN PNIDAR (AID) AND JEAN COSTELLO AND JEAN DEERING (INTERNATIONAL EYE FOUNDATION) LED GOG TO HOPE U.S. PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES OR ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE DEVELOPED. SUBSEQUENT WASHINGTON-CONAKRY EXCHANGES (E.G. REFTEL AND AMBASSADOR HARROP'S CONSULTATION IN SPRING 1976), HOWEVER, WERE INCONCLUSIVE. EMBASSY NOW DESIRES REVIVE THIS HUMANITARIAN PROPOSAL AS SEMINAL SELF-

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HELP PROJECT AIMED AT SUPPLYING AT LEAST MINIMAL INSTRUCTION

MATERIALS, TEACHING EQUIPMENT, AND LIMITED ATELIER RECONSTRUCTION,
WITH VIEW TOWARD UP-GRADING GUINEAN REHABILITATION COMPETENCE
SO THAT MORE HANDICAPPED MAY BENEFIT AND
CENTER MAY BECOME MORE SELF-SUSTAINING.

3. HOWEVER, EMBASSY FIRST WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE ON
--ANY DOLLAR RESOURCES WHICH HEW COULD IN ANY WAY STILL APPLY
TO SUCH A PROJECT(REFTEL);
--ANY AID FUNDS WHICH COULD SUPPORT A SMALL (EVEN ONE-PERSON)
ONE-TIME MISSION, PERHAPS 4-6 WEEKS, TO ADVISE GUINEANS ON WHAT
MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT THEY NEED, AND TO DO AS MUCH TRAINING
OF INSTRUCTORS AS TIME PERMITTED (EMBASSY COULD PROBABLY LODGE
SUCH LIMITED MISSION FREE);
--FRESH SOUNDING OUT OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN CON-
TRIBUTING EXPERTISE OF TEXTS, CIRRICULUM, EQUIPMENT, OR ADVICE,
(E.G. INTERNATIONAL EYE FOUNDATION (REFTEL);
--AVAILABILITY OF TRAINING STIPENDS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, IN U.S.
OR, BETTER, IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES WITH OR WITHOUT TRAVEL PAID
EVEN AT A RELATIVELY MODEST PROFESSIONAL LEVEL;
--AVAILABILITY OF DONATION PACKET OF (PREFERABLY) FRANCOPHONE
TRAINING AIDS, METHODS, GUIDES, TEXTS,AND STUDENT MATERIALS
SUITABLE FOR STRUGGLING CENTER, WHETHER OR NOT A MISSION (ABOVE)
CAN BE FUNDED;
--EMBASSY NOW BELIEVES SOME COUNTERPART FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR
LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND LIMITED LOCAL EXPENSES.

4. MS CURTISS (ABOVE) HAS PUT INITIAL REQUEST IN QUITE UNREAL-
ISTIC RANGE OF 1.4 MILLION SYLIS BUT EMBASSY CONCEIVES OF PROJECT
ONLY WITHIN SELF-HELP SCOPE OF USD 10,000 PENDING DEPT'S RESPONSE
AND MORE DETAILED TALKS WITH GOG SPONSORS.

5. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ABOVE WILL REQUIRE NOT A LITTLE TELEPHONE
CONTACT WORK TO PRIVATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTORS, BUT HOPE THAT
MODEST BUT CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE CAN BE PUT TOGETHER WHICH AT
LEAST IN PART GOES TOWARD MEETING GOG INITIATIVE.

6. CISSE HAS ALSO ASKED FRENCH EMBASSY FOR FRANCOPHONE TEACHING
MATERIALS. GOF IS LOOKING INTO AVAILABILITY.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SELF HELP, HANDICAPPED, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, SOCIAL SERVICES, CHILD WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CONAKR02260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760423-0843
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761155/aaaabvfj.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CONAKRY 751
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED HANDICAPPED REHABILITATION PROJECT - GUINEA
TAGS: SGEN, EAID, GV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006